



## UNDERSTANDING THE CENTRAL REGISTRY

### ***Current Missouri law 210.110, RSMo. defines Child Abuse and Neglect as follows:***

**"Child"**, any person, regardless of physical or mental condition, under eighteen years of age

**"Abuse"** any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control, except that discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed to be abuse.

**"Neglect"** failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being.

**"Those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child"**, those included but not limited to the parents or guardian of a child, other members of the child's household, or those exercising supervision over a child for any part of a twenty-four-hour day. Those responsible for the care, custody and control shall also include any adult who, based on relationship to the parents of the child, members of the child's household or the family, has access to the child.

### ***What is the Central Registry?***

The Central Registry is a list of persons who have a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect by the Children's Division (CD) or the Court.

### ***Why is a person's name added to the Central Registry?***

Once an investigation of a child abuse/neglect report is determined to be substantiated (allegations found to be true) by CD, there are three ways a person's name can be added to the registry:

- 1) If the person does not ask for an Administrative Hearing;
- 2) By order of the Family Court; or
- 3) By criminal conviction based on the same incident of abuse or neglect investigated by CD

### ***How long is a person's name on the Central Registry?***

State law requires a person's name to stay on the registry forever if allegations were found to be true by a court on a report dated after 1991, or by a probable cause finding by CD after 1994, or by a preponderance of evidence finding by CD after 2004.

### ***Can a person have their name removed from the Central Registry?***

If the person does not agree with the substantiated conclusion, the person must request an "Administrative Review" within 60 days of the receiving the conclusion notice. Once all administrative and judicial reviews have been exhausted, the registry will be updated to show that the finding is final and the person's name will remain on the registry indefinitely, 210.152.5, RSMo.

### ***Who can see the names of people who are included on the Central Registry?***

The Children's Division, Background Screening Unit, as well as Department of Health and Senior Services Family Care Safety Registry, respond to requests from employers wishing to obtain a child abuse/neglect background check for prospective employees. These requests can only be granted with the written consent of the individual whom they are seeking information about. Other individuals who may see the registry without written permission of the individual include CD staff, juvenile officers, court, police, physicians, or other state agencies who are conducting child abuse/neglect investigations or child protective proceedings.

For more information, please contact your local CD office. The Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline can be reached at 1-800-392-3738.

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